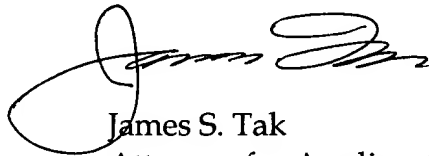


## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on October 20, 2004 has been carefully considered and the Examiner's remarks are appreciated. Claims 1-16 have been canceled, and the remaining claims 17-24 are the rewritten claims corresponding to objected but allowable claims 6-13, now canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and request allowance of claims 17-24. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7274.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: March 17, 2005      By:

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